97-84178-26

National Child Labor Committee (U.S.)

Children who work at night

New York

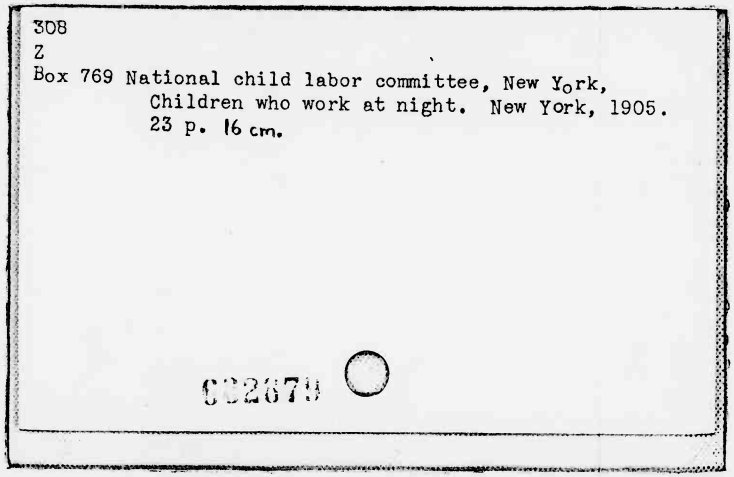
1905

97-84178-26
MASTER NEGATIVE #

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
PRESERVATION DIVISION

BIBLIOGRAPHIC MICROFORM TARGET

ORIGINAL MATERIAL AS FILMED - EXISTING BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD



RESTRICTIONS ON USE: *Reproductions may not be made without permission from Columbia University Libraries.*

TECHNICAL MICROFORM DATA

FILM SIZE: 35mm REDUCTION RATIO: 9:1 IMAGE PLACEMENT: IA (IIA) IB IIB

DATE FILMED: 9-4-97 INITIALS: JP

TRACKING # : 27506

FILMED BY PRESERVATION RESOURCES, BETHLEHEM, PA.

National Child Labor Committee
105 EAST 22D STREET
NEW YORK CITY

CHILDREN WHO WORK AT NIGHT

308
N
Box 769

B313 N7

NEW YORK, 1905

This circular is based on information obtained in Pennsylvania by the Pennsylvania Child Labor Committee, Miss Helen Marot, Secretary, and on an investigation of the children employed in the glass industry in Western Pennsylvania and Ohio, as reported by Owen R. Lovejoy, Assistant Secretary of the National Child Labor Committee, and in Indiana and Illinois, as reported by Mrs. Harriet M. Van der Vaart, acting as special agent for the National Committee.

Ordered printed, January 23, 1905, by the Press Committee of the National Child Labor Committee.

SAMUEL MCCUNE LINDSAY,
Secretary.

308
Z
Box 769
Anon

308
Z
Box 769

FEB 14 1947 WS

CHILDREN WHO WORK AT NIGHT.

The simple statement of the situation of young children in Pennsylvania working at night presents an argument for the legislative prohibition of such employment.

Throughout Pennsylvania children are employed at night in the manufacture of glass, woolen yarns, lace, silk and hosiery, in foundries and machine shops, in dyeing establishments, ship yards, bridge works, locomotive works, sugar refineries, rag shops, in the district messenger service, as errand boys, as bell boys in apartment houses and hotels, in newspaper offices, printing and lithographing offices, in bakeries, in bowling alleys and in theatres.

In other employments than these, children who nominally do day work, work over time, often until nine, ten, eleven and twelve o'clock; but, in speaking of night work in this connection, reference is made only to those who work on night shifts.

Night work for young children always has additional dangers to those incident to their employment by day in industrial and commercial life. The employment of growing children on shifts alternating one week, day work, and one week, night work, seriously imperils their moral and physical welfare, since it renders the formation of any regular habits of life impossible at the very time of all others when regular habits can and should be formed.

How young the children often are upon whom these conditions are imposed may be seen from the following analysis of 112 Pennsylvania children who are working on night shifts:

3	are	9	years	old
5	"	10	"	"
12	"	11	"	"
25	"	12	"	"
25	"	13	"	"
22	"	14	"	"
16	"	15	"	"
4	"	16	"	"

Some of these are in messenger service.* Messenger boys work on shifts or on "slip tricks," as they call them; that is, one week the boys go on service at seven in the morning and continue until five in the afternoon. The next week, their day begins at eight, the next week at nine, and so on. The slip trick at night may begin at 6 P. M. and last until seven in the morning, or at 7 P. M. and last until seven in the morning. If an office is busy and a boy is needed, he must work over time. As they pay him by the piece instead of by the week, the manager of the office usually considers he is treating him fairly when he retains him for extra work. With the press of business, the manager cannot be expected to notice how worn the little fellow may be after a long day of twelve hours or more.

> John says: "They keep you late on Saturdays and Sundays this time of year, because ocean steamers are coming in with lots of passengers. I have been on the day shift, beginning at two o'clock, and stayed on through the night. They would not let me off until the boys came on for the day at eight o'clock."
>
> Lewis is now thirteen. He has been working in the messenger service for a year and a half. For six months he has averaged sixty-seven hours per week, part of the time on the day shift and part on the night. In one office the night shift lasted eleven hours for seven consecutive nights. Some weeks ago he answered a call which came to the office at one o'clock A. M. It took him to Washington Street wharf. It was a message from a passenger on a steamer to a friend. At one o'clock in the morning there are few cars running, and Lewis had to walk the entire distance, which was ten miles there and back.
>
> Another boy working in the same office with Lewis averaged sixty-five hours a week. He has several times worked twenty-three consecutive hours.
>
> Two little fellows of perhaps more moral than physical courage, confessed that they did not like night work because the streets were so lonely. One little fellow of eleven years worked one night only. "I was afraid, so the company gave me day work," he explained.

*See also pamphlet on "Unprotected Children" for further details of messenger service.

A police officer of over thirty years' experience in San Francisco, keeps a separate album in his rogues' gallery for criminals who have come under his observation and whose description shows that they began their careers as messenger boys or hotel bell boys. There are many of them.

NEWSPAPER OFFICES.—Boys from eleven years upward are employed in newspaper offices to carry copy from the editorial to the composing rooms, to go to the post office for mail or on other errands. The chief objection to the work is the hours. In the offices of the morning papers, the hours for some of the boys are from 2 P. M. until 11 P. M.; for others, from 6 P. M. until 2.30 in the morning.

> Max is fourteen. He recently worked at night in one of the newspaper offices. He went on at seven in the evening and left about two in the morning. Max gave up the work because he "couldn't sleep more'n four hours. I always wanted to be up and go around."
>
> Jack, who is now sixteen years old, is working in a press agency. He receives $3.50 a week, and his hours are from six in the evening until 2.30 in the morning. Jack told about "two little kids" in the office. "My," he said, "but they were sleepy. They went to school in the day time and worked at night." One was eleven and the other thirteen.

SILK FACTORIES.—In many of the silk factories in the eastern part of the State children work both night and day. In one factory fully sixty per cent. of the employes are under sixteen years of age; in another, forty per cent. A resident of South Bethlehem said: "The coal fields offer ideal locations for silk-throwing plants. You have plenty of cheap labor, cheap fuel, and the parents offer no objection to their children working nights." In the eastern section of the State, during the past year, or perhaps two years, there has been less night work, possibly due to a dull

season. It was estimated in August, 1904, that there were not more than five hundred girls under sixteen employed at night in that section. But so far as the question has to do with the evil of night work, it is not a question of numbers. Night work exposes young children to physical and moral dangers too serious to be continued, even where comparatively few children are concerned. This is especially true where the mills are situated in country districts, as some of the glass works are in the western part of the State and some of the textile mills are in the eastern, and where the children are drawn from the villages within a radius sometimes as great as four miles.

CHILDREN IN GLASS HOUSES.—In some few glass houses, one gang of children is employed throughout the day and another throughout the night; but the general practice is to employ the same gang alternate weeks on day and night shifts. This applies often to very young children. One investigation, including 87 children in glass houses, showed their ages as follows, nearly two-thirds being under fourteen:

4	of the	children	were	9	years	old	
4	"	"	"	10	"	"	
8	"	"	"	11	"	"	
17	"	"	"	12	"	"	
27	"	"	"	13	"	"	
16	"	"	"	14	"	"	
11	"	"	"	15	"	"	

The night shift is generally shorter than the day shift. A usual night shift is from six in the evening until 4.30 in the morning; an-

other, from five in the evening until three in the morning. A day shift corresponds more or less to regular factory hours, ending in some glass houses an hour or three-quarters earlier than in other factories.

In a glass house in Philadelphia, the night shift begins at 6.15 in the evening and ends at five in the morning. A boy of twelve worked on this night shift for three months.

Another boy of twelve and one of eleven years worked in the same house, alternately on the night and day shifts.

In another glass house in Philadelphia, a boy of twelve worked on the night shift from seven in the evening until five in the morning. It was this boy who told how his friend Thomas lost one of his eyes. He was a "carrier-in" and was standing near the "knocker-off," when a flying piece of glass struck him in the eye. "You are likely to get burned," Elmer explained, "because the hot gathering stick is near the handle of the shovel which is used to carry in."

In the same glass house with Elmer was a boy of fifteen who had never attended school, although born in Philadelphia. He could neither read nor write. He had been three weeks in the glass house and the three weeks previously in a stocking mill. He is now at the House of Refuge, having been committed for larceny.

George K. also worked in this same glass house, and began work when he was eleven years old. When he worked on the night shift his hours were from 6.30 in the evening until three or four o'clock in the morning. George is the boy who does not like night work, because "You're too much sleepy." It is probable that "too much sleepy" is the cause of some of the accidents which occur in the houses at night.

In a Philadelphia glass house, boys as young as eight years substitute for their older brothers, and begin work regularly at nine years of age. Children of ten are employed alternately on the day and night shifts.

A remarkable instance of the employment of children in the glass factories is found in the eastern part of the State:

James K. was sent to a reformatory when he was eleven years old. From there he went to work in a glass factory. He lived in a house with about forty boys, all of whom were employed in the same glass house. The hours of the boys varied; they were from seven o'clock to five in the day time one week, and from 5.15 in the evening to 2.50 in the morning the second week. They were given a rest of an hour and a half when on the day shift and a three-quarter-hour rest when on the night shift. James worked there for two winters and two summers.

Two years ago, when John O. was fourteen years of age, he was sent to work in the glass factory where James worked. He said: "Several of us fellows went there together. We were met at the station by Mr. S. He is the richest man in that town. He took us to a boarding house, where the reformatory boys live. Me and the boys who went with me got four dollars a week and board. The reformatory boys got their board and fifty cents a week for spending money. They had nothing to kick about. They had lots of clothes and could order more whenever they wanted to. The boss told me, too, that I could order all the things I wanted out of the store and they would take it out of my pay. I got shoes and a suit of clothes. While I was on the night shift I spent the day shooting "craps"

and made ten dollars. I came home without settling up at the store. Eighteen days' pay was coming to me, but I guess the things I got made me come out ahead. My work at the glass house was 'gaffing.' I was behind a 'lear.' I bet no other fellow would have stood it so long, but I knew how to take care of myself, and every once in a while I would slip out and get a little fresh air. Other fellows didn't do this, and sometimes their strength would give out, so that they could not hold the molds tight. That is the way boys get hurt,—when they can't hold out any longer; but only one boy was burned while I was there."

A boy sits between two molds. He holds one mold closed with one hand and opens the other ready for the man who is dipping up the molten glass. The blower gives his blow pipe to a boy to clean; this boy is the "knocker-off." The "carrier-in" is the boy who takes the glass from the mold to the annealing oven for tempering.

A kindergarten teacher of South Pittsburg found a little fellow who had been working since he was eight years old, or for seven years, sitting on a door step with his head buried in his hands and fast asleep. His clothes as well as his hands were covered with burns. He lived a long distance from work, and, too tired and sleepy to go farther, had dropped down on a friendly door step for his rest after the night shift had closed. He had probably been there many hours when she found him.

The same teacher tells the story of three other boys she knows, who are now about fifteen years old and work in the same glass house. One began work at eight, one at twelve and one at thirteen. All of

them are employed alternately on both day and night shifts.

There are not enough boys and girls in Charleroi, Pa., to supply the glass houses, so they are drawn from the surrounding villages from one mile to four miles away. The children must leave home by 5.30 or 6 in the morning, in order to reach the factory by 6.45. Some of them walk one way to save car fare. The boys who work on the night shifts in these factories begin at five o'clock in the evening and stop at three in the morning. Some of the little fellows are afraid to go home at the end of the night shift and sleep in the factory in warm corners until the day shift comes on.

William is a glass-house boy in the western part of Pennsylvania, thirteen years of age. He can neither read nor write. He does not always go home after his night shift is over, but sleeps in any sheltered corner he can find. He is now in a reform school, having been arrested for vagrancy.

Charles is a boy of fourteen, who worked in a glass house, alternating on day and night shifts, for two years. When the boy was brought before the court for stealing, the judge realized that he was feeble-minded and committed him to an institution for the care of such children.

Three of the principal glass houses in the Pittsburg region were visited and revealed the following conditions: One plant employed from ten to twelve hundred people, of whom between one and two hundred are sixteen years of age and under. Young girls are em-

ployed in the glass house principally as wrappers, inspectors and packers, and do not work at night. The boys are employed as "holding mold boys," "carrying-in boys," "sticking-up boys," "turning-out boys" and "cleaning-off boys." The wages range from 80 cents to $1.20 or $1.35 a day, according to the kind of work and the skill. Around one furnace twenty boys were seen who appeared to be from 12 to 14 years of age, and around another furnace thirty boys were seen of about the same age. All boys, as well as men, are compelled to work at night, and most of the boys are taken into the industry before they have even laid the foundation of an English education.

The boys employed in the glass industry are principally Slavs and Italians—this active manufacturing region becoming rapidly filled with foreign population, principally Slavs, Russian Jews, Italians and Poles.

Mr. X., the proprietor, seemed to have a rather low regard for the intellectual ability of the Slav, saying: "Some people seem born to work with their hands and others with their brains." As to compulsory education laws, he said: "You must be careful not to be too much of a providence to people who are born for another kind of existence. No legislation should be proposed without a good deal of safety valve. It is what people do in liberty that makes anything of value. It is difficult to know the effect of legislation, and you should go slow."

As we passed a thirteen-year-old boy carrying chimneys on a large asbestos shovel, he

said: "Look in the faces of some of these boys, and you can see they are not fitted for anything else. English education would do them no good."

It was impossible to determine the exact number of young boys in this factory, though probably from 150 to 200 were 16 years of age or under. Around two furnaces in one room, about 50 boys were counted who appeared from 13 to 14 years of age. Schedules in the office describe several of these. One of the foremen said there were 100 or more boys of school certificate age. One gang of "carrying-in" boys was watched for some time, until it was possible to measure the number and length of their trips, from the glass blower to the annealing oven. The distance was 100 feet, and 72 round trips were made each hour, making in the eight-hour day the entire distance traveled 21 4-5 miles. Half of this distance the boys are carrying hot lamp chimneys on an asbestos shovel, to place in the oven. Few of the boys, however, have to travel this distance or to run in their work, as these were doing.

In the second plant, a bottle works employing about 400 people, among whom 75 are boys of 16 or under, the proprietor said that in C——— those who granted employment certificates did not require that the children should be able to read and write in the English language, but only that they should be able to read and write in their own language.

The president of one company which operates some ten plants, including two or three in Ohio, said that of the 150 people employed in the plant visited only 14 are 16 years of age

or under. He says he does not wish boys under the legal age, and complains of the laxness of justices of the peace in granting employment certificates. He said he knew that children were frequently sent to the factory with certificates who were under the required age, but he had made every effort possible to detect the deception and refuse employment to such.

The hours of labor in the factories visited are as follows: Day shift, 6.30 A. M. to 4.30 P. M., allowing an hour for dinner and a half holiday on Saturday; night shift, 4.30 P. M. to 3.15 A. M., allowing 45 minutes for supper, from 10 to 10.45 P. M. In the factory of one company in Pittsburg, the night work extends to 5.30 in the morning.

In all these factories the wage of glass blowers and of others who do the more skilled labor, were found to be so high as to justify the opinion that child labor cannot be regarded as essential to the comfort of the people, and, if defended, must be defended upon entirely different grounds. Glass blowers were found earning from $4.80 to $7 a day, and two were seen whose pay for the preceding week had been $55 each.

Glass-blowing machinery is being introduced into these factories, which performs some of the work formerly done by boys. It seems probable that the more extensive use of various kinds of machinery will still further decrease the demand for child labor in the industry, though at present both the manufacturers interviewed in C———— spoke of the difficulty of getting sufficient child labor to meet the demand.

The ——— Company in Ohio employs about 700 people, and among those on night shift, 30 were seen whose general size and appearance would correspond with those whose names are given below:

> Willie D——— was 13 the 29th of last March. Is very small, and on alternate weeks works from 6.30 P. M. to 4.30 A. M., earning 30 cents a day.
>
> John K———, 14 years of age, worked at the same place all last year.
>
> Willie B———, who was interviewed for a moment while carrying hot bottles, said he was 14 in September; that he began work at 6.30 that night and would be on duty until 4.30 the next morning. He is very small.
>
> Another boy working at the same place said he was 14 in October.

A conservative estimate would probably be that 50 or 60 boys working at this place are under 16.

At the ———— Bottle Works the hours of the night shift are 5 P. M. to 3 A. M. A smaller number of boys here seem to be working at night, though 12 or 15 were evidently below 16 years of age. The wages of the boys are from 85 cents to $1.10 a day.

> Francis M———, 14 years old December 4th, has been working a year and a half, earning 80 cents a day. He has no certificate, and says he never had one.
>
> Jo..n D——— was 15 on October 22d, and has also been working a year and a half.
>
> George S———, who was 14 on May 25th, says he has worked a year and has no certificate. He says: "Some of the kids are

so little they can't hardly walk. If you pass you can work at any age."

Several of the boys met on the street in the evening, as the day shift went off duty and the night shift went on, spoke of an "examination" having been held the day before. I asked them if it was at the school, and they said, "No, at the factory."

The ———— Glass Co. employes about 350, and 100 boys in all. Mr. X———— says there are about 30 boys under 16 working there, and that they find great difficulty in getting boys enough. The hours of night labor are from 6 P. M. to 4 A. M., with one hour for supper, from 10.30 to 11.30 P. M.

One little boy, Frank J———, who was carrying hot table ware, said he was 12 on August 15th; that he earned 72 cents a day and worked nights every other week. Other boys said they were 14, 15, etc.

Six boys were interviewed. All stated that they were under 16.

There are several glass houses in Wheeling, W. Va. In one factory several workmen estimated that there are about 200 men and 250 or 300 boys in the furnace room alone, aside from the packing and other departments. About 40 boys were seen at work who are certainly under 15 and apparently from 10 to 12 years of age.

One boy, working, told me he was 12; another said he was 13. One little fellow, carrying large beer mugs from a presser, measured 46 inches high, weighed probably 60 pounds or less, and looked not over 9 years old. He had a child's, and not a boy's, face. He was too busy to be interviewed.

The hours of work at this factory are from 7 A. M. to 5 P. M., and in the night from 7 P. M. to 5 A. M., with a change every week.

The cheaper the class of goods produced, the larger the proportion of child labor,—suggesting that while it was often argued that men could not do the work usually performed by children, the real cause of child labor in the glass industry is the small wage paid for the kind of work children perform. This conclusion is especially confirmed by the fact that in one factory in Newark, O., although the ware is of a cheaper grade, being principally beer and mineral water bottles, the company has secured men for the subordinate positions by being willing to pay men's wages. No place was found in which all work could not have been done by those over 16 years of age.

It is recognized that this would cost more, but it would affect all manufacturers alike. It becomes, therefore, a question of cheapening goods or cheapening life.

In some of the factories investigated the introduction of improved machinery strongly suggests a general tendency to replace the unskilled and child labor by mechanical devices. A discussion of this tendency with Mr. Z., of the ———— Glass Works in Muncie, Ind., is extremely interesting. They are now introducing $60,000 worth of new machinery. This company is engaged in the manufacture of fruit jars, and all the blowing is done by machinery. Carrying machines have also been used in this factory, but without much success. It was the proprietor's opinion, however, that it would be only a short time until

they had the right kind of machinery to carry in bottles. He described a factory in Toledo where nearly everything was done by machinery, and they expected in a very short time to have it so perfected that it would require only a few men to tend to the machinery and keep it in order, and no other employes would be necessary.

In Marion, Ind., is located the Standard Co-operative Glass Co. This is owned by a company of glass blowers who were formerly employes of a glass firm that failed after a disastrous fire. Having loaned money to the firm, these glass blowers received the site and the ruins of the factory as creditors, and have built up the factory and operate it upon the co-operative plan. About 150 people are employed here, and the report shows only tnree "whom one would question as being under 16."

The manager said they avoided the small boy as much as possible; he needed too much watching, and they did not consider him a profitable employe. He said he "looked forward to the time when 16 would be the age limit for all workers." He explained the indifference of many glass blowers to improve child labor legislation in the fact that many of them were compelled to enter the factory at an early age, and had therefore no personal experience of the value of education. It was his opinion that it was the glass-blowers' wives who kept the children out of the factories.

The moral effects of factory life, especially of night work and irregular habits, are clearly

presented. Many residents and business men in the neighborhood of glass factories said that the general moral condition of the glass boys is very bad; that their conversation on the streets at night is frequently disgusting and indecent. The use of tobacco is universal, and at one factory the can was going back and forth between the saloon and the factory constantly.

Among a large number of schedules of working children obtained in Illinois and Indiana, the following may be mentioned as types:

> Andrew K., 14 years old, works in a bottle factory in Streetor, Ill., and at night works from 7 in the evening to 4.30 in the morning. His wages are $4.20 a week. His father and mother look strong and well, but Andrew is pale and looks like a sick child. He has a brother 11 years old, who is larger and stronger than he.
>
> Paul H. is 13 years old, and works in a glass house in East St. Louis. His hours at night are from 7 P. M. to 5 A. M.; his wages, $3 a week. He has been working for two years, and can neither read nor write the English language. The family is very poor.
>
> Paul has a brother, 11 years old, working at the same place, who is also an illiterate.
>
> Paul asserts that he is 16 years of age, but his grandfather says he is 13, and he certainly did not look more than 13.
>
> Earl C., 15 years old, works in a glass house in Terre Haute, Ind., and at night works from 5 P. M. to 3 A. M. His mother, when seen, expressed herself as greatly opposed to night work and did not like to have her boys in the factory. She said their dis-

positions had changed since they had commenced night work. They were nervous and irritable, and she said it affected the men in the same way. She thought the gas was injurious to their health.

Moses C. works in the same factory and earns 70 cents a day. His mother was not opposed to child labor. Said, if you kept children from working when they were young, they left home and got married so early they were very little good to their parents.

William E., of Marion, Ind.,earns a dollar a day in a glass house; is 15 years old, and has been working for three years. His sister says the boy often works at night or until three o'clock in the morning, sleeps a few hours and goes back for the day's work. Many other boys were found who did likewise.

Everett A., 14 years old, left school in the third grade; works in a glass house in Gas City, Ind., and earns 75 cents a day. His mother says: "There is nothing for poor people to do but to let the children work."

Thomas S. works in the same factory and earns $5.50 a week. He has no employment certificate; is 15 years old and has been working for two years. His mother said she thought that influences of the factory were bad, and said the child complained of stomach trouble. The week he worked nights, she said, he had no appetite.

Elmer D., of Muncie, Ind., is 15 years of age and has been working for two years. His hours of night work are from 5 in the evening to 3 in the morning, and his wages are 90 cents a day. He is not strong, and his mother said she does not like to have her boys work in the factory; they have a

cold and cough all the time. She thinks it is caused by their going from the extreme heat into the cold.

SUGAR REFINERIES.—The boys who work at night in sugar refineries and barrel factories are employed in much the same way as the boys working in glass houses. Two weeks they work on the night shift—from 7 P. M. to 6 A. M.—and the next two weeks on the day shift—from 7 A. M. to 6 P. M.

FOUNDRIES.—Possibly the heaviest physical work done by boys at night is in the foundries, machine and car shops, locomotive works and ship yards. It is the intention of most of the foundries, and of many of the other industries here mentioned, to employ boys over fifteen or sixteen years, but the lax provisions of the law in regard to employment certificates make it impossible for the best disposed employers to know the true age of the children. There can be no doubt that in all of the machine shops boys under age are regularly employed, and boys under sixteen are working at night. Many of the boys work five nights in the week for twelve hours. It is usual to give to the small boys in the foundries the heating of the rivets. The heat is extreme, and some of the boys work without shirts. They say: "In summer time we often get knocked out by the heat." In some of the foundries they have what they call a "hospital." A doctor is always there to resuscitate those who have been overcome by the heat and to bandage up the burns.

In one of these foundries, where the hours are from 6.10 P. M. until 6.30 A. M.,

with twenty minutes out for rest, John O. worked when he was fourteen years of age. Two accidents occurred while John was in the foundry,—one boy was burned badly on the chest and arms and another boy on his arm. He said: "The boys are all sizes some of them pretty small. They take any fellow that has a certificate."

James M. was eleven years old when his schooling was interrupted by an attack of scarlet fever. Before his term of quarantine had ended, his father found him work in a machine shop, on the night shift. His particular duty was to pile up the hot rivets. Like many of the night-working children, he slept only a few hours and spent the rest of his time on the streets. It has been a year since his illness, but he still has serious trouble with his ears.

Joe, a thirteen-year-old Polish boy, worked all of last fall, winter and spring in a machine shop; one week he did day work, the next, night work. His particular job was to straighten out the hot iron. It is not surprising that Joe saw danger in the hot iron, and that he said: "You are likely to slip and fall and burn yourself," for he carried a scar on his leg made by the hot gathering iron in the glass house, where he was at work when twelve years of age, and another scar on his hand, received at the ship yard from a red-hot rivet, when he was eleven. Joe may have been a clumsy boy, but most boys are at eleven and twelve years of age.

SCALING BOILERS.—Scaling boilers is also often done at night, and boys from twelve to sixteen years are available. The boys consider the work hard, that is, hot and heavy, but the pay is good.

Thirteen-year-old "Lefty" says: "There's a man that's got an office, and when he can't get no men, he comes and gets us fellows to go down to the ships. We work from about eleven o'clock at night until five in the morning, and we used to get $2.00 for it. Last time, about two weeks ago, he came and got six of us,—Snocky (14 years), McLaughlin (14 years), Peter (14 years), Frankie (13 years), and Nolan (13 years) and me. Little Nolan did not want to go at first, but he kept following us, and in the morning when he came home his mother hollered on him, 'cause she didn't know where he was. And the man is a foxy guy, —he only wanted to give us $1.50 for the night if we finished and $1.10 if we didn't. But we kicked on that and he gave us $1.80. You go down a little hole on a ladder and then another hole and then you knock the rust off with hammers. Three of us go down and work half an hour, then we come up and rest half an hour and the other three go down. Maybe we didn't have fun playing cards on the deck! That night we started at eight o'clock and got done at half-past twelve; that was down at Marcus Hook, and the boilers weren't hot that time. Sometimes they are. Last time Patsy scaled he couldn't touch anywhere without getting burned."

The following leaflets issued by the National Child Labor Committee may be had upon application to Samuel McCune Lindsay, Secretary, 105 East 22d street, New York city.

1. "The Organization of the Committee, its Membership and Statement of Objects." 8 pp.
2. "Illiteracy Promoted by Perjury." Pp. 16.
3. "Children Who Work at Night." Pp. 23.
4. "Unprotected Children." Pp. 17.

MSH 27506

END OF
TITLE